

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 16, 17, 61, 62, 65-68, 77-80, 85 and 86. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) An isolated human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein encoded by the nucleic acid illustrated in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

20. (Previously Presented) An isolated human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2).

21. (Previously Presented) A fusion protein comprising a human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of said CXCR3 protein is a sequence encoded by the nucleic acid illustrated in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

22.-59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously Presented) A fusion protein comprising a human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein wherein the amino acid sequence of said CXCR3 protein consists of the amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2).

61.-62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously Presented) An isolated human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein the amino acid sequence of said CXCR3 protein or functional variant is at least about 90% identical to that of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), said CXCR3 protein or functional variant comprises the extracellular N-

terminal segment of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), and said CXCR3 protein or functional variant binds one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of IP-10 and Mig.

64. (Previously Presented) A fusion protein comprising a human CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) protein or functional variant thereof, wherein the amino acid sequence of said CXCR3 protein or functional variant is at least about 90% identical to that of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), said CXCR3 protein or functional variant comprises the extracellular N-terminal segment of the protein shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), and said CXCR3 protein or functional variant binds one or more chemokines selected from the group consisting of IP-10 and Mig.
- 65.-68. (Canceled)
69. (Previously Presented) The isolated human CXCR3 protein of Claim 19, wherein said protein is labeled with a detectable label.
70. (Previously Presented) The isolated human CXCR3 protein of Claim 69, wherein the label is a radioisotope, a spin label, an enzyme label, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminescent label, an antigen or epitope label.
71. (Previously Presented) The isolated human CXCR3 protein of Claim 20, wherein said protein is labeled with a detectable label.
72. (Previously Presented) The isolated human CXCR3 protein of Claim 71, wherein the label is a radioisotope, a spin label, an enzyme label, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminescent label, an antigen or epitope label.
73. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of Claim 21, wherein said fusion protein is labeled with a detectable label.

74. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of Claim 73, wherein the label is a radioisotope, a spin label, an enzyme label, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminescent label, an antigen or epitope label.
75. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of Claim 60, wherein said fusion protein is labeled with a detectable label.
76. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of Claim 75, wherein the label is a radioisotope, a spin label, an enzyme label, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminescent label, an antigen or epitope label.
- 77.-80. (Canceled)
81. (Previously Presented) The isolated human CXCR3 protein or variant thereof of Claim 63, wherein said protein is labeled with a detectable label.
82. (Previously Presented) The isolated human CXCR3 protein or variant thereof of Claim 81, wherein the label is a radioisotope, a spin label, an enzyme label, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminescent label, an antigen or epitope label.
83. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of Claim 64, wherein said fusion protein is labeled with a detectable label.
84. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of Claim 83, wherein the label is a radioisotope, a spin label, an enzyme label, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminescent label, an antigen or epitope label.
- 85.-86. (Canceled)

87. (Previously Presented) The isolated human CXCR3 protein or functional variant thereof of Claim 63, wherein said human CXCR3 protein or functional variant induces a rapid and transient increase in the concentration of intracellular free calcium ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$) and/or chemotaxis upon chemokine binding.
88. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein comprising a human CXCR3 protein or functional variant thereof of Claim 64, wherein said human CXCR3 protein or functional variant induces a rapid and transient increase in the concentration of intracellular free calcium ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$) and/or chemotaxis upon chemokine binding.